

REMARKS

Status

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated November 3, 2004, in which Claims 1-2 and 4-7 were rejected and Claim 3 was objected to. No claims have been canceled; Claims 1 and 3 have been amended; and no new claims have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-7 are pending in the application, and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Office action indicates that the embodiment of Claim 3 is not shown.

The embodiment of Claim 3 is shown in Figures 6A and 6B and described in the Specification at Page 4, lines 11-22. As shown and described, the second sheet guide (i.e., small film guide 9) is driven between up and down positions.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claim

The Office Action indicates that Claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended Claim 3, and as amended, Claim 3 is an independent claim. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of this claim.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,401,302 (*Hardy*). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hardy's aligning device includes a plurality of rollers 208-211, as shown in Figure 2. As described at Col. 4, lines 18-21, each sheet enters the aligner 5 and is driven by the rollers 208-211.

In contrast, the present invention employs a single skew roller 122, as shown in Figure 2 of the Specification. This single skew roller is claimed in amended Claim 1.

Accordingly Claim 1 is not anticipated by *Hardy*, and Claim 1 is therefore believed to be patentable over *Hardy*.

Claims 2 and 6 are dependent on Claim 1, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to Claim 1, Claims 2 and 6 are also believed to be patentable.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 103

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,401,302 (*Hardy*) in view of US Patent No. 3,948,509 (*Becker*). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4 and 5 are dependent on Claim 1, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to Claim 1, Claims 4 and 5 are also believed to be patentable.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 103

Claims 4-5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,401,302 (*Hardy*) in view of US Patent No. 3,948,509 (*Becker*) and further in view of US Patent No. 5,697,609 (*Williams*). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4-5 and 7 are dependent on Claim 1, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to Claim 1, Claims 4-5 and 7 are also believed to be patentable.

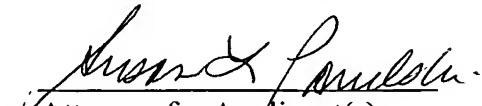
Summary

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.